

BULLETIN – NOVEMBER 2023



SARAH HIGGINBOTHAM
BUDDY POPPY / VFW NATIONAL HOME

The tin metal poppies are now available to order. If you haven't already placed an order, you may do so through the Department of Illinois VFW State Headquarters. Please go to <https://vfwil.org/uploads/documents/Resources/PoppyFormOct2023.pdf>

to print out an order form. Then submit the order form and payment to Headquarters. You do not have to order these poppies or the traditional poppies through your Post. All Auxiliaries can order both poppies through Headquarters by using the order form. The tin metal poppies must be ordered in increments of 500. The cost will be \$70.00. I have not been informed of a timeframe to receive the poppies. Once you receive these poppies, feel free to use both the tin metal and traditional poppies in the same ways you've used the traditional poppies in the past.



Veterans Day is fast approaching. I hope your Auxiliary has plans to distribute "Buddy"® Poppies at all your Veterans Day festivities. Once Veterans Day is over it will be time to think about the holidays. Make sure to use poppies in your decorations. Are you having a Breakfast with Santa type event? Set up a table with information about the "Buddy"® Poppy while distributing them to your attendees. You could even find a poppy coloring page for the kids to color as an activity. There are so many ways to incorporate the "Buddy"® Poppy into other VFW programs.

Did you attend Illinois Day at the VFW National Home? If so, make sure you report to me how many members attended from your Auxiliary. There are awards for the Auxiliaries from the upstate, midstate, and downstate with the most members in attendance.

Illinois Day was a huge success this year! The Todd L. Marriott Memorial Playground was dedicated, and the children love the new playground. Thank you, Illinois, for working together and crushing this goal! You are all amazing. We raised enough funds to cover our half of the cost of the playground and more. While at Illinois Day President Lynn was asked if the Auxiliary would be interested in purchasing some tables and benches for parents to sit at while their children play at the park. Because of your generosity she was able to say yes! How amazing that we were able to complete this project so quickly and were able to provide additional items.



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If you haven't made your Health and Happiness donation yet, please make sure to get that done before the end of this year! Also, if you are looking for more ways to help the VFW National Home, I recommend donating items for their yearly Santa's Shop. Santa's Shop is a store where their children can shop for Christmas gifts and experience the joy of giving. The list of items suggested and instructions to get the items to the VFW National Home for any of you that are interested in donating follows.

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VFW NATIONAL HOME

Santa Shop 2023 Gift Suggestions

Electric hair straightener	Electric blow dryers
Men's toiletries/gift sets	Inexpensive watches
Wallets and billfolds	Winter gloves (adult sizes only)
Inexpensive jewelry-men & women	Insulated lunch bags
Small tool sets	Family games-no Chutes & Ladders, or Candy Land-have plenty
Small coolers	Teen boy or girl body sprays, cologne
Car emergency kits	Travel coffee mugs
Coffee cup sets	Scented body washes and lotions
Nail polish/makeup sets	Teen boy shaving kits/gift sets
Messenger bags	Craft/activity sets
Sports balls-basketballs, footballs, softballs, kick balls and soccer balls	Adult Coloring Books
Christmas tree ornaments/Christmas decorations	Dolls, small, large, white and African American
Sport water bottles/cups	Hot pads/dish towels
All branches of military hoodies, t-shirts, hats for all ages	Sports equipment-bat, ball, gloves, etc.
Make up bags/totes	Sport team coffee mugs, insulated bags, hats, mittens
Sport team hoodies, t-shirts, hats (all ages)	Belts (men and women)
Super soft cozy blankets	Coffee, tea, and hot cocoa gift sets
Michigan State University & University of Michigan items	

*Santa's Shop is a store where our children can shop for Christmas gifts and experience the joy of giving. We stock it with gifts appropriate for all ages; children may be shopping for moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, big brothers, little sisters, best friends and other special people. To help with Santa's Shop, donate **new** items appropriate for all ages, but especially for adults. Overflow of generous gifts to the Santa Shop will also be available to the children for birthdays, special events and an incentive closet. When mailing packages or making a delivery, please indicate your gift is for Santa's Shop. Gifts can be delivered to: VFW National Home, Attn: Santa Shop, 3573 S. Waverly Rd, Eaton Rapids, MI 48827. Please call 866-483-9642 with questions. **Thank you!***